

## PhD Student Opportunity in Coastal Food Web Ecology August 2023

We are looking for independent, self-motivated and enthusiastic students who are passionate about pursuing research in community and food web ecology to join our laboratory in the Department of Biological Sciences at Michigan Tech (<https://www.mtu.edu/biological/people-groups/faculty-staff/faculty/olin/>). A central goal of our lab is to understand the species- and food web-level responses to environmental change by generating empirical data that integrates across trophic ecology, population/community ecology and ecosystem ecology. To explore these topics, we use a combination of observational, experimental, molecular (e.g., stable isotopes, fatty acids, DNA metabarcoding) and theoretical approaches. In accordance with this goal we hope to recruit students with broad interests and/or experience in any of the following: community assembly, food web interactions and energy transfer, and quantitative techniques.

**Position Summary:** The PhD will join an interdisciplinary team of researchers funded through the NYSG Ocean Action Plan to conduct research that advances understanding of the spatiotemporal distributional patterns of forage fish species and subsequent biomass transfer to ecologically, recreationally, and commercially important elasmobranch and finfish species in the coastal waters of New York. The successful candidate will develop theoretical and applied independent research questions that will help to predict foraging hot spots of highly migratory species biomass.

**Qualifications:** An MS in the field of community ecology, ecology, fisheries, environmental science, or other related field of study is required. Members from groups underrepresented in STEM, including first-generation college students, students from low-income backgrounds, and students who identify as gender, racial, or ethnic minorities, are strongly encouraged to apply. Competitive stipends are provided in the format of research and teaching assistantships, with graduate fellowships also available for outstanding students. Preference will be given to candidates with a passion for ecology, demonstrated field hardiness, leadership experience and strong quantitative, writing and communication skills. Prior experience analyzing and synthesizing ecogeochemical data is a plus.

**Application Instructions and Timeline:** For priority consideration interested applicants should submit a single pdf that includes, (1) a cover letter outlining your interests in ecology, your career goals, ecological questions are you interested in pursuing for your graduate work, experience/skills as they pertain to this opportunity and why you believe my lab would be a good fit for you; (2) your curriculum vitae; (3) a copy of your unofficial transcripts; and (4) contact information for 3 references, to Dr. Jill Olin ([jaolin@mtu.edu](mailto:jaolin@mtu.edu)). Applications will be considered beginning 15 May 2023, with a position start date of August 2023, and will continue until the position is filled. Only the selected candidates will be required to formally apply through MTU's graduate school (<https://www.mtu.edu/gradschool/>).

We look forward to hearing from you!